



May 17, 2021

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Action Required

Annual Inventory Reconciliation!

- ☐ It's that time of year again, the annual inventory reconciliation!
Please follow directions below and have your signed and dated inventory to Kristi Clore no later than **June 11, 2021**.
 - Asset owners may generate inventory reports in IFRIS by selecting “Program Areas | Asset Management | My Property Inventory Report | Print Preview.”
 - After the report is generated, select “Print.”
 - Asset owners will then verify the accuracy of the report by physically inspecting all inventory items that are assigned to them and signing the report.

- Any discrepancies should be noted in the report. If necessary, fill out a Form 3.22 Property Inventory Addition (send to Kristi Clore's attention), to add an item that is missing from your inventory, or Form 26 Damaged, Lost or Stolen Property Certificate, to remove a damaged, lost or stolen inventory item (send to Fernanda Crandol's attention).
- **Even if you do not have any inventory items you must still sign and return your inventory report.**

Employee News

Leaving VDOF!

- ◆ Paul Reier (forest technician) is retiring from VDOF on July 1, 2021 after 45+ years of service. Congratulations, Paul – enjoy your well-deserved retirement.
- ◆ Kyle Manning (James River work area forest technician) is resigning his position on May 25 to pursue a new opportunity. Best of luck on your new adventure.

Project Updates

Website/Intranet

- ◆ As a part of the website, there is a new Intranet (an employee-only content section). While this is still under development, much of the old Intranet essentials are now moved over to this new Intranet (Policies and Procedures, forms, templates, exhibits, logos, the Branch archives, LRT minutes, and more). The beauty of this new Intranet is that you just go to our website at www.dof.virginia.gov and click the Employee Login link in the upper right hand corner to login. All current full-time employees have now been set up with a login to this site. This login is unique to the website/Intranet and is not the same as your COV/network/email/IFRIS logins and is not VPN dependent.
- ◆ Your username is your full email address and you all should have received an email from "wordpress@dof.virginia.gov" with your login information. If you have not seen this email, **please check your SPAM folder**. If you do not find this email, you can click Employee Login, then click "Forget your password? Click here" and enter your full email address. This will allow you to reset your password.
 - "Forget your password" will allow you to set a more manageable password.
- ◆ Once logged in, please feel free to look around. The overall design scheme is similar to the public website but you'll notice the main menus appear and operate slightly differently to ensure you can recognize whether you are viewing the public site or the employee-only site. You can always click on the VDOF shield in the upper left or the Public Home link in the upper right to view the public website.
- ◆ It is our hope that you will find the new public website a great place to refer folks to and share links to specific pages or items. Please be reminded that if you wish to share a link to something on our public website with a non-VDOF person, you should always be sure you're on the public site to get the link to a particular page/resource/form/publication/employee contact. You wouldn't want to share a link with an outside person that is from the Employee Intranet side as the public person would not be able to access because they don't have an employee login.
- ◆ We've been working out the bugs during this "soft launch" but will be making the public announcement about the new website soon. Please be sure that you can login to the Employee Intranet and email [Janet Muncy](mailto:Janet.Muncy@vdo.gov) if you are unable to login/reset your password and login.

Policy and Procedures

- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 4-1 Prescribed Burning](#) and [Form 4.9 Prescribed Burn Management Plan](#) have been updated to reflect the new minimum Ventilation Rate standard based on the National Weather Service change from the use of feet to the use of meters. If you have any questions, please contact [John Miller](#).

Last Week

Agency Matters/Operations

- ◆ On May 6, VDOF's Incident Management Team (IMT) provided its 120th continuous day of assistance to VDEM and VDH, in support of Virginia's vaccination efforts. Since January 6, VDOF's IMT has been tasked by VDEM to oversee the establishment, coordination, and logistical support of large Community Vaccination Centers (CVCs) across the Commonwealth. The primary goal was to establish a vaccination network for the delivery of at least 50,000 COVID-19 vaccinations per day. That goal was ultimately met in early March, once the vaccination supply began to increase, and currently vaccinations in the Commonwealth are averaging approximately 75,000 per day. Having successfully exceeded the original goal, VDOF's IMT personnel demobilized from the effort on May 7. A total of 28 different VDOF employees assisted in the vaccination effort, providing more than 7,000 total hours of assistance.

State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell and John Colligan (chief of administration) held a conference call with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) leasing representatives regarding the lease of the Matthews State Forest offices to the local NRCS field office. The effort has been resurrected at the urging of the Matthews Trust Board of Trustees.

Fire and Emergency Response

- ◆ On Saturday May 1, Pulaski County Emergency Management, in conjunction with VDOF and numerous local cooperators, completed Virginia's largest Community Wildfire Preparedness Day event. Held in the Draper Mountain Estates Community of Pulaski County, 24 Team Rubicon volunteers (a mostly veteran-based group of community project volunteers), along with members of the Pulaski County Fire Department and the Pulaski County wildfire mitigation module, completed fuels reduction projects that created defensible space around the homes of those that were not able to do so, creating shaded fuels breaks in the community, dropping snags from a previous fire event, and creating small burn piles of the removed material. The effort continues Pulaski's excellent commitment to wildfire hazard mitigation
- ◆ On May 6, 21 VDOF personnel participated in a training event to become familiar with the agency's new IGNIS firing system. The system is a drone-based platform that uses "dragon balls" dropped by drone to ignite fires for the purposes of both prescribed burning and burn-out in support of fire suppression. The new system shows a lot of promise in support of agency prescribed burning efforts, by using drone technology to complete burns more efficiently, with less manpower, at a higher degree of personal safety.

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban and community forestry [U&CF] partnership coordinator) submitted an article for Field Notes about the different ways communities across the state celebrated Arbor Day despite a pandemic. Communities featured included Suffolk, Waynesboro, Staunton and Harrisonburg. Virtual scavenger hunts, canoe tree tours, and volunteer days were among the ideas featured.

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy participated in a professional panel for Dabney S. Lancaster students studying forestry. Students presented to the panel their forest management plans as a capstone project for the course. Ten students presented on properties that were largely located on the western side of the state.
 - ◆ VDOF's Urban Wood Program, in cooperation with TreesVA and the City of Charlottesville Urban Forestry Division, delivered the TreesVA Arbor Day Bench to Clark Elementary School. The bench was created with a willow oak once located on the downtown mall which had reached the end of its biological life. (Pictured) The bench was initially slated to arrive at Clark Elementary in time for the 2020 Arbor Day celebration but delivery was delayed for one year due to the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, on Friday, May 7, Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager) and Molly O'Liddy did a virtual presentation on Arbor Day and the importance of an active urban wood program for the Clark students and staff.
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- ◆ Secretary of Agricultural & Forestry Bettina Ring and Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (VDACS) Office of Agricultural and Forestry Development Project Manager Michele Bridges visited Harrisonburg to learn more about their innovative Urban Wood, Urban Forestry and Pollinator Habitat programs. Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester) assisted the Harrisonburg staff with the tour which included visits to numerous projects which highlighted Harrisonburg's many accomplishments.
 - ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester), Stephen Versen (VDACS), Emily Flippo (VDACS) and Don Bright (Meherrin Wood Products) met virtually to discuss the current status of lumber production from Virginia's sawmills and the potential positive impacts of Go Virginia funding to increase dimensional lumber production for economic development projects within the state. The discussion consisted of workforce development opportunities, perceived shortages of labor as a result of competition from COVID-19 stimulus money, bottlenecks to the production of lumber in secondary markets (kilns), the strength of Virginia lumber prices, high domestic transportation costs, the return of Canada to the market place as COVID-19 restrictions lift and VDACS assisting Meherrin with potential funding programs.
 - ◆ Terry Lasher presented to the Virginia Delegation of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. His presentation focused on riparian forest buffer accomplishment (RFB), highlighted Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) goals, cost-share program and funding availability, the accomplishments of the VDOF over the past year, and future prospects of achieving the WIP.
 - ◆ Terry Lasher and Hector Rivera (chief of human capital management) interviewed two potential candidates for the Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Fellowship program. Both candidates interested in the VDOF advertisement were minority candidates, both PhD candidates, and both very interested in our program. One student was from Virginia Tech, and the other was from George Mason University.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ The Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee is a multi-stakeholder, advisory committee appointed by the State Forester and tasked with providing recommendations to the State Forester to help administrate the Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy programs in Virginia. The committee is composed of federal and state conservation agencies, private environmental organizations, land-trust

organizations, consulting foresters, forest products industries, and forest landowners. This committee met and toured the new Charlotte State Forest last Thursday to learn more about how the Forest Legacy Program assisted in purchasing the land and how the forest will be managed in the future. Andrew Fotinos (forest conservation specialist) and Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator) did an excellent job of providing the content for the tour and answered several questions from the committee. A highlight of the tour was walking through a portion of the extensive wetlands area on a raised access road.

- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) installed yellow pan traps on ash trees at James Madison's Montpelier. Parasitoid wasps have been released at this site as biological control of the emerald ash borer. Post-release surveys are used to determine if a population of parasitoids successfully established. Forest health staff will trap at Montpelier one week each month for the next five months.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Garland Gray Forestry Center (GGFC) has sown their bareroot loblolly crop and anticipates a yield of roughly 32 million seedlings for the 2022 planting season.

State Forest

- ◆ Shannon Lewis (forest management specialist) and Avond Randolph (lead worker) removed a beaver dam from the emergency spillway on Winston Lake and removed debris clogging the intake pipe. A staff gauge was installed. A visual inspection was conducted in preparation for permit renewal with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).
- ◆ Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator), Mike Womack (forest management specialist), and Tom Zaebst (assistant state forests manager) met with Steve Conner and Davey Hackett on the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest to discuss and examine various properties for a possible land exchange with Mr. Hackett that would make sense to both parties. Recommendation will be forthcoming.
- ◆ Andrew Fotinos (forest conservation specialist) and Ed Stoots examined areas recently surveyed for the Phase 2 acquisition on Charlotte State Forest. Several issues were discovered in doing the survey and we are working through the process to address them.

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed and recently signed between VDOF and DCR State Parks for VDOF to cruise, sell timber for thinning, and provide oversight of the harvest of approximately 300 acres of timber to be thinned on the Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County.

Central Region

- ◆ Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) conducted a field trip for the Fairfax Master Naturalist Basic Training class. On the two-mile hike, Jim was able to show them a variety of forest types to illustrate how soils and topography affect forest communities. He also showed a shelter wood cut that resulted from gypsy moth damage in the early 1980s, which also demonstrated the effects of deer browse.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Secretary of Agricultural & Forestry Bettina Ring and Bryant Bays (eastern regional forester) attended a Groundcover Restoration Symposium hosted by the Longleaf Pine Alliance and landowner Bill Owen in Petersburg. Other attendees, all members of Virginia's Longleaf Pine Implementation team, including NRCS, DCR, Department Wildlife Resources (DWR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Old Dominion

University (ODU), and Meadowview Biological Research Station. Following a brief training by President of the Longleaf Alliance Carol Denhof, the group collectively worked through problems and opportunities for implementing good longleaf restoration projects in southeast Virginia. One positive outcome was the agreement from amongst the group that working closely together and sharing information provides the best chance of continued success with longleaf restoration work in Virginia.

- ◆ Eli Podyma (community forester) assisted with tree ID, benefits calculation, and putting together verbiage for signs about the Protopath at the Science Museum. <https://smv.org/learn/blog/welcome-to-the-protopath/?fbclid=IwAR1lVZjvfX-4wlrq1x1eHW62Al3CwvDxxedtg4MvK3f1uHsp2VGr8zylVvg> –
- ◆ Jesse Bander and Clint Phegley (area foresters) participated in a hardwood assessment day for the hardwood initiative at Sandy Point and Dragon Run State Forests.
- ◆ Eli Podyma and Jeremy Falkenau (senior area forester) attended a field day for the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification. During the field day they explored the benefits of maintenance on a riparian planting
- ◆ Lisa Deaton (area forester) led the Middle Peninsula Master Naturalist Forestry Class via Zoom. This was followed up with a field trip to Beaverdam Park in Gloucester, where Lisa and Dave Slack (area forester) provided Dendrology instruction alongside Master Naturalist instructors Bill Blair and Hurricane Thompson. The group also learned about historical land use decisions for the reservoir site.
- ◆ Peninsula Master Naturalist, York County Master Gardener, and Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator Barb Dunbar organized and conducted a memorial planting of eastern redbuds at the York County Waste Management Center in honor of Page Hutchinson. Lisa Deaton (area forester) assisted with planting the trees. Local school staff, parent-volunteers, Master Naturalists, and public works staff also participated in the ceremony. Barb hopes that others will be inspired to plant "Page's Trees" throughout Virginia. She has written a lesson plan to support these plantings. (Pictured)
- ◆ Doug Audley (area forester) gave a presentation on southern pine bark beetles at the Waterford Landing Homeowners Association (HOA) annual meeting in Dinwiddie County. Waterford Landing experienced a serious outbreak of bark beetles, primarily Ips beetles, in fall of 2020 and the HOA president requested VDOF present information on these beetles to the homeowners group. In addition to speaking and answering questions, Doug also handed out brochures on pine beetles and pine management as well as the Firewise brochure to the approximately 40 residents in attendance.



Western Region

- ◆ Johnny Vest (area forester) and Andrew Vinson (water quality specialist) have been busy assisting various municipalities with Arbor Day celebrations. This included a ceremonial tree planting at Bissett Park in Radford attended by the mayor and various other town officials; a tree planting with Virginia Tech at Stadium Woods consisting of planting numerous oaks along the edge of stadiums woods that were grown from existing oaks within the campus's forest; and Blacksburg's annual Arbor Day event at the town's nursery and several parks where numerous trees were being planted by Girl Scout troops and other volunteers.

- ◆ Bill Sweeney (area forester) and Erin Perry (forest technician) worked with the Franklin County High School 4-H Club to plant apple tree seedlings at Franklin County Recreation Park. Bill and Erin began by teaching the students the proper techniques for planting the seedlings, focusing on how root development can influence the tool you use. They then proceeded to assist the students with the planting of 20 seedlings along the park's Sontag Road frontage. (Pictured)



- ◆ While traveling busy Route 24 in Bedford County, David Tompkins (forest technician) was "first on scene" as a car driving in front of him caught fire. David was able to contact local emergency dispatch, report the fire and provide size-up information, as well as, use his VDOF pickup and emergency lights to secure the scene until local firefighters arrived and extinguished the fire. (Pictured)



Public Information

- ◆ Field Notes posts:
 - [Arbor Day in Pandemic Times](#)
 - [Woodland Weirdos](#)
 - [Early Caterpillar Gets the Leaf](#)

News Clips

- ◆ [Forest Fire Burning In Goshen Area](#)
- ◆ [SEVERAL FIRES REPORTED ON EASTERN SHORE FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING](#)
- ◆ [Multiple crews respond to forest fire on Zack Road in Gloucester County](#)
- ◆ [Brush fire burns about 700 acres in Rockbridge Baths](#)
- ◆ [Fire was once the forester's enemy. Now it's a tool for regenerating Appalachia's forests.](#)
- ◆ [Department of Forestry recommends taking action to commemorate Wildfire Awareness Month](#)
- ◆ [World's First Wooden Satellite Could Be In Orbit This Year](#)
- ◆ ['A forest on caffeine'? How coffee can help forests grow faster](#)
- ◆ [Fire Stoppers](#)
- ◆ [Firefighters Respond to Multiple Blazes in Accomack County Over Weekend; State Police Investigating Two Fires](#)
- ◆ [People May Have Used Fire to Clear Forests More Than 80,000 Years Ago](#)
- ◆ [The Path to Sustainable Forestry](#)
- ◆ [Pandemic Brings Record Number of Patients to the Wildlife Center of Virginia](#)
- ◆ [Listen to the Forest](#)

- ◆ [Citrus derivative makes transparent wood 100 percent renewable](#)
- ◆ [Africa's Great Green Wall: 3 million trees to be planted](#)
- ◆ [In the galleries: A heightened homage to trees and what they can teach us](#)
- ◆ [Va. Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry to tour Harrisonburg's Urban Forestry Program](#)